

Remarks

This is in response to a first Office Action mailed June 8, 2004. The Applicant has hereinabove amended claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 15, and 18-20.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to broaden the scope of each claim by eliminating limitations unnecessary for patentability and to better point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. These amendments have not been made in response to a prior art rejection.

The amendments to dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, and 8-10 have been made to better conform to the base claims from which these claims depend, as well as to better point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention.

The amendment to dependent claim 15 has been made to incorporate a limitation from original claim 11. The amendments to claims 18-20 have been made to better conform to the base claims from which these claims depend, as well as to better point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention.

The hereinabove amendments are believed to be proper, do not introduce new matter, and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

Election of Species

In response to the Applicant's election of Species A with claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-20 readable thereon, the first Office Action withdrew dependent claims 3 and 14 from further consideration. The Applicant affirms that in view of the amendments to the claims presented above, claims 1, 2, 4-13 and 15-20 remain readable upon the elected species.

The Applicant further submits that in view of the amendments presented above, claims 1 and 11 are now generic claims that further read on Species B. Accordingly, upon allowance of claims 1 and 11, the Applicant requests that the Examiner consider and allow the withdrawn claims 3 and 14 as well.

Objection to Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 18-20 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Additionally, the Office Action objected to claim 1, lines 7-8 on the basis that the phrase "a locked position" should be "the locked position." The Applicant apologizes for these inadvertent errors in the application as originally filed.

As discussed above, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 18-20 to correct these errors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are accordingly solicited.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Through the hereinabove provided amendments, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are believed to have been obviated. Accordingly, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under §112, second paragraph.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,486,928 issued to Tucker et al. ("Tucker '928"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tucker '928 at least fails to teach or suggest the limitation of a "locking arm maintained in a locked position by an engagement feature communicating with and constrained by a corresponding confinement feature," as set forth by claim 1. Tucker '928 further at least fails to teach or suggest "the engagement feature is affixed to a selected one of the frame and locking arm, and the confinement feature is provided by the remaining one of the frame and locking arm," as set forth by claim 1.

Accordingly, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as well as the rejection of claim 4 which depends from claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

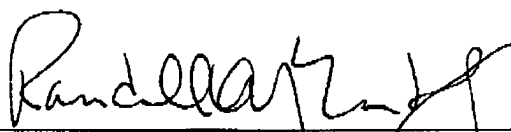
The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of claims 2, 5-10 and 18-20, and the allowance of claims 11-13 and 15-17.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application. This Response is intended to be a complete response to the first Office Action mailed June 8, 2004.

Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below listed Attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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